

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 07946 070958 Z

12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

DPW-01 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 EUR-25 IO-12 RSR-01 /145 W
----- 122653

P R 070832 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1269

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7946

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: WEEKLY SITREP, APRIL 29- MAY 5, 1973

THE FOLLOWING SENT SAIGON FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO 5 MAY 73
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION AND INFO. QUOE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0284

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MARR, MOPS, CA, HU, ID, PL, VS

SUBJECT: WEEKLY SITREP, APRIL 29- MAY 5, 1973

REFERENCE: CAN THO 0275, CAN THO 0276

1. SUMMARY: SCATTERED INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE INCREASED THROUGHOUT THE WEEK IN MR IV. THE VC ATTACKED AND OVERRAN A VILLAGE IN BA XUYEN MAY 3. TWO RANKING CANADIANS ARE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT CANADA'S CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE ICCS. A JMC EFFORT TO RECEIVE 50 VC- HELD CIVIL DETAINEES IN AN XUYEN COLLAPSED WHEN THE ICCS FAILED TO OBTAIN PRG SECURITY CLEARANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) RANDOM, SPORADIC VIOLENCE IN MR IV INCREASED THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. THE NUMBER OF REPORTED INCIDENTS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 07946 070958 Z

ROSE FROM 29 ON APRIL 29 TO 85 ON MAY 3, TAPERING OFF ONLY SLIGHTLY TO 71 ON MAY 4. TERRORISTS TOOK A HEAVY TOLL OF CIVILIAN DEAD AND WOUNDED. THE HONG NGU SECTOR, SCENE OF RECENT HEAVY FIGHTING, WAS RELATIVELY QUIET WITH THE RVNAF IN CONTROL OF THE MEKONG. VC/ NVA INFILTRATION APPEARS TO HAVE SLOWED AND NO SIGNIFICANT COMMUNIST TROOP MOVEMENTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED.

(B) IN ONE OF THE MOST FLAGRANT CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS YET REPORTED A VC UNIT MAY 3 ATTACKED AND OVERRAN GIA HOA VILLAGE IN BA XUYEN PROVINCE, INFLECTING HEAVY MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CASUALTIES. A NUMBER OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE AMONG THE KILLED AND WOUNDED. THE VC ATTACK MAY HAVE BEEN IN RESPONSE TO INCREASED GVN POST- CEASEFIRE ACTIVITY IN THE AREA. THE GVN RECENTLY BUILT AND MANNED A NEW RF OUTPOST NEARBY AND BEGAN CLEARING OPERATIONS. IT IS NOT CLEAR AT THIS TIME HOW THE VC, WITH INCREASED RVNAF STRENGTH IN THE AREA, WERE ABLE TO OVERRUN THE VILLAGE, OCCUPY IT TWO HOURS, AND WITHDRAW IN GOOD ORDER WITHOUT REPORTED LOSS. LASSITUDE OR TREACHERY MAY BE THE REASON. THE KHANH HUNG ICCS TEAM IS INVESTIGATING THE ATTACK BUT HAS NOT YET FILED A REPORT.

(C) COMMUNIST SAPPERS APRIL 30 BLEW UP AN IMPORTANT BRIDGE ON HIGHWAY 7 IN VINH LONG PROVINCE. THE BRIDGE SPANNED THE MANG THIT RIVER, AND ITS DESTRUCTION TEMPORARILY INTERRUPTED TRAVEL ON THE PRINCIPAL OVERLAND ROUTE BETWEEN VINH LONG AND VINH BINH PROVINCES. AN ARVN ENGINEER FERRY HAS RESTORED TRAFFIC. THE VINH LONG ICCS TEAM VISITED THE SITE BUT DECLINED TO FIX BLAME FOR THE EXPLOSION.

3. ICCS: (A) MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING-- VICE CONSULS CONTINUE TO REPORT DREARY LITANY OF ICCS " ACTIVITIES" IN REGION VI AND VII. INCIDENTS OCCUR, THE GVN FILES COMPLAINTS, ICCS TEAMS VISIT THE SCENE, THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS RAISE INGENIOUS OBJECTIONS TO ANY IMPLICATION OF VC/ NVA GUILT, INNOCUOUS REPORTS ARE FILLED, AND CANADIAN AND INDONESIAN MORALE DECLINES. THE THORNY VINE OF CYNICISM GROWS AMDIST RUINS OF HIGHER EXPECTATIONS.

(B) HOW MUCH LONGER CAN THIS FARCE BE PLAYED? THE PRINCIPAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 07946 070958 Z

ACTORS EXPECT A SHORT RUN. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR GAUVIN VISITED CAN THO APRIL 29. HE WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE ICCS. HE BELIEVES THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS ARE UNDER PRESSURE FROM MOSCOW, THE PRG, AND THE DRV TO BLOCK INVESTIGATIONS CRITICAL OF THE VC/ NVA, AND THAT THEY ARE TRYING TO ISOLATE THE

CANADIANS.

MANFRED VON NOSTITZ, THE ABLE CANADIAN ICCS REGION VII CHIEF DELEGATE, TOLD A CONGEN OFFICER THAT HE NOW WOULD RECOMMEND AGAINST CANADA'S CONTINUING PARTICIPATING IN THE ICCS. FORMERLY A STRONG SUPPORTER OF A CANADIAN ROLE IN THE COMMISSION, VON NOSTITZ ARGUES THAT POLISH AND HUNGARIAN INSISTENCE ON PROTECTING THE VC/ NVA, AND PRG ABSENCE FROM THE REGIONAL JMC, RENDER THE ICCS INEFFECTIVE (CAN THO 0275).

4. CIVIL DETAINEES: THIS WEEK'S MAJOR NON- EVENT IN MR IV WAS THE ABORTED RELEASE OF ABOUT 50 VC- HELD CIVIL DETAINEES IN THE U MINH FOREST OF AN XUYEN. THE RELEASE ORIGINALLY WAS SET FOR APRIL 30 BUT POSTPONED WHEN VC NAVIGATORS ESCORTING THE JMC GOT LOST. THE SECOND ATTEMPT, SCHEDULED FOR MAY 2, MISCARRIED BECAUSE AN ICCS PRISONER INSPECTION TEAM, WHICH WAS TO ACCOMPANY THE JMC RECOVERY GROUP, DROPPED OUT OF THE MISSION. THE ICCS DEMURRED BECAUSE IT FAILED APPARENTLY BY OVERSIGHT, TO OBTAIN FORMAL FLIGHT CLEARANCES FROM THE PRG IN SAIGON. THE SAIGON GVN/ JMC RECALLED THE JMC RECOVERY GROUP LITERALLY IN MID- AIR AS IT WAS ON ITS WAY TO THE PICK- UP SITE. NEW ARRANGMENTS FOR THE PRISONER RELEASE WILL TAKE ABOUT A WEEK. (CAN THO 0276).

BARNES UNQUOTE
2#853 HOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON07946
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS BARNES
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730537/aaaahyom.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 CAN THO 275, 73 CAN THO 276
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <14-Dec-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971212
Subject: WEEKLY SITREP
TAGS: MARR, MOPS, PINS, VN, VS, ICCS
To: EA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005